

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Buckshoal Farm (VDHL file # 41-108)

and or common N/A

**2. Location**

street & number VA Route 737

N/A not for publication

city, town Omega

☒ vicinity of

state Virginia

code 51

county Halifax

code 083

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name see Continuation Sheet #2

street & number N/A

city, town N/A

N/A vicinity of

state N/A

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Halifax County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Halifax

state Virginia

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Division of Historic Landmarks  
title survey file # 41-108

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1986

☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

Division of Historic Landmarks  
221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond

state Virginia

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## 7. Description

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### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved date N/A

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Buckshoal Farm, the home of Virginia Governor William M. Tuck, is situated off State Road 737, in Halifax County. The house, set on a hill, is a simple vernacular structure whose earliest section was constructed in the early nineteenth century; the house had several subsequent additions and alterations. The nomination consists of three contributing buildings, the main house and two outbuildings.

### ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The earliest structure extant at Buckshoal Farm is the two-story pitched-roof section of the main residence. This portion is log construction covered with clapboard siding. The uncoursed stone exterior chimney is in the north gable end. The plan of this log dwelling consists of one large room with a fireplace and one small room on each floor, with a steep winding enclosed stair in the corner of the larger room. A simple one-story porch was added to the west side of this section some time after 1907; the porch was screened in the mid-twentieth century. A shed-roofed kitchen was added to the east side in the 1920's.

The larger pitched-roof section of the house with its ridge perpendicular to the older section was added in 1841. At the time it was built, this two-story frame section with clapboard siding had a two-bay front facade with a bracketed Italianate cornice. A one-story porch with three bays extended across the front. The porch's spindle frieze and sawnwork balustrade were added later in the century. The plan of the 1841 section consisted of two rooms and a side hall on each floor. The uncoursed stone exterior chimney with a brick top still exists in the east end. The chimney has the date 1841 on it.

In approximately 1921, the porch was removed from the front and an ell was added extending to the south. This rectangular addition has a hexagonal bay end on the front. The pitched roof intersects the roof of the 1841 section at right angles; the roof is hipped over the bay and has a decorative cross-gable on the west side. Also on this side, an interior chimney with a corbelled brick top serves this wing. This addition continued the wide frieze board of the 1841 section; the bracketed cornice was removed at this time. In place of the earlier Eastlake porch, a one-story front porch was constructed having tapering wooden posts set on brickpiers. The configuration of the porch follows that of the ell and bay of the front of the house. The roofs of the front and east and west side porches and the kitchen additions are standing-seam metal; the rest of the house now has an asphalt shingle roof.

All of the windows in the house, though a variety of sizes, are six-over-six double hung. Many have louvered hinged shutters.

The interior finishes of the house have been several times altered. The main features of note are the simple wide wooden mantels in the oldest section, the only slightly more elaborate fluted and bracketed mantels in the 1921 wing, and the main stair, which dates from 1841. This stair has a large turned newel post and heavy turned balusters, two on each tread. The wide reeded baseboard matches that in the rest of the 1841 section. The rest of the interior trim is very simple.

The property contains two contributing outbuildings, a log well-house and a frame shed near the house.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** early 19th c. to 1969 **Builder/Architect** unknown "

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Of primary significance is Buckshoal Farm's association with William M. Tuck, Virginia Delegate (1924-32), State Senator (1932-42), Lieutenant Governor (1942-46), Governor (1946-50), and United States Congressman (1953-69). The property was Tuck's birthplace and a favorite retreat during his long political career. A leading mid-twentieth century Virginia politician, as governor Tuck was instrumental in the passage of the important Right-to-Work Act of 1947.

Of local significance is the dwelling itself, which is typical of Halifax County farmhouses that grew incrementally as needs and changing tastes dictated. The earliest section, which is of log construction, is a rare survival; however, the mid-nineteenth century addition of a larger more formal front section onto a simple earlier house represents a very common pattern for the area. With its original log section and subsequent additions, Buckshoal Farm exemplifies one hundred fifty years of changing architectural tastes in Halifax County.

#### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The property, including a building, was purchased by Mark Alexander Wilkinson in the mid-nineteenth century;<sup>1</sup> it was probably soon after, in 1841, that the two-story wing was added. Wilkinson's grandson, Robert J. Tuck, bought the property and called it "Valley Home"; his son, William M. Tuck,<sup>2</sup> who inherited the property, called it "Buckshoal Farm" after nearby Buckshoal Creek.

William M. Tuck was born at Buckshoal Farm on September 28, 1896. Although a well educated man, Tuck was to always retain the down-to-earth manners and philosophy of his native rural Virginia. As a boy, he had spent a good deal of time working on the home tobacco farm, which gave him a real understanding of Virginia's agrarian life, both its advantages and disadvantages. Tuck's college career was interrupted by World War I, when he served in the marines. After the war, Tuck went on to Washington and Lee University where he received his law degree in 1921.

Politics seemed the natural vocation for Tuck, who explained his entry into the political arena as being intimately tied up with his early life at Buckshoal Farm:

Most of the prominent politicians traveling from courthouse to courthouse in those days would come by my home. Some would spend the night. And I just heard about politics all my life, and naturally was interested<sup>3</sup> from the start. But I didn't set my mind on any particular office. Not then.

Although Tuck's father had been interested in politics and had served in the legislature at the turn of the century, he was primarily a farmer. Tuck realized early on that the hard physical work and uncertainty of farm life was not for him, and saw political life as his most advantageous career choice.<sup>4</sup>

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Crawley, William Bryan, Jr. Bill Tuck: A Political Life. Charlottesville, VA.: University Press, 1978  
"How Governors Are Made." Richmond Times Dispatch. 19 March 1976  
Luther, Roslyn, and Luther, Edwin C. III. Governors of Virginia. Accomac, VA. Eastern Shore News, 1974.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approx. 1 3/4 acres

Quadrangle name Omega, VA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 17 699290 4057320  
Zone Easting Northing

B           
Zone Easting Northing

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

### Verbal boundary description and justification

VBD: Beginning at a point on the north side of an unimproved road approx. 1000 feet east-northeast of Virginia Route 737, which point is approx. 4150 feet NNW of the intersection of Virginia Route 737 and 733; thence north-northeast approx. 400 feet, thence southeast

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries (See Continuation Sheet#2)

state N/A code    county N/A code   

state N/A code    county N/A code   

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dianne Pierce, Consultant

organization N/A

date December 1986

street & number 4329 Southampton Road

telephone (804) 272-5502

city or town Richmond

state Virginia

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

   national X state    local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

H. Bryan Mitchell, Director

title Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks

date July 30, 1987

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date   

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date   

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

BUCKSHOAL FARM, HALIFAX COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet 1

Item number 8

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SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

In 1923, Tuck decided to run as a Democrat for the House of Delegates. He won, although he supported a road-improvement bond issue that many of the residents of Halifax County opposed.<sup>5</sup> However, from the outset Tuck stated that he would vote according to the wishes of the Halifax residents if they elected him.<sup>6</sup> After four terms in the legislature, Tuck developed a real following, including the all-important endorsement of Harry F. Byrd. With the support of the Byrd organization, Tuck won the lieutenant governorship in 1941. In 1945 Tuck was elected governor. Tuck's governorship is largely remembered for its effect on labor-management relations. It was on his insistence that the Right-to-Work Act of 1947 was passed, eliminating union membership as a condition of employment. Tuck's political career became national in 1953 when he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where he served for sixteen years. While a Congressman, Tuck was a member of the House Judiciary Committee and the American Activities Committee. His direct, uncomplicated approach to national issues was well known by Tuck's fellow Congressmen.

Tuck's native Southside Virginia never lost its hold on Tuck. While serving in Richmond and Washington, Tuck would return as often as possible to Buckshoal Farm and to nearby Buckshoal Cabin "just to keep from going crazy". When his career in the U.S. Congress was over, he retired to Halifax County to practice law, saying "I'll be happier at home, back down there on my poor, rocky farm". Tuck died at Buckshoal Farm in 1983. Upon his death, the property passed to his descendants, who now rent out the farm. The cabin to which he also repaired is not included in the nominated area because of its comparative distance and because of its loss of integrity of materials, design and workmanship due to a recent remodeling.

The house at Buckshoal Farm is important as a representation of the larger Halifax County farmhouses, growing as it did from "back to front", beginning with a simple early nineteenth century house. A study of the Division of Historic Landmarks archives revealed that it was frequently the case in the area as at Buckshoal Farm that houses grew by accretion. The largest and most formal section of Buckshoal Farm was added in 1841, in a vernacular Italianate style, as in many other area houses which were added on to in the mid-nineteenth century. Rather unusual is the survival of the log construction of the earliest portion; its two-story, two-room form with corner stair is a common configuration in simple area houses of the period, however.

While Tuck's governorship and term in the House of Representatives occurred less than fifty years ago, the Buckshoal Farm property nevertheless has exceptional significance because of its association with a Virginia governor whose importance in the political history of the Commonwealth is clearly documented in recent historical scholarship. His prominent role in the Byrd era of Virginia politics, including his involvement in the pivotal Right-to-Work Act, with its national implications, is firmly established.

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

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Continuation sheet 2

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4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Rosella Tuck Davidson  
1514 Baysdale Lane  
Richmond, VA 23229

Richard D. Tuck  
7909 Schuyler Court  
Annandale, VA 22003

Mary Tuck Echols  
920 Baylor Street  
Staunton, VA 24401

Robert T. Tuck  
300 West Franklin Street, Apt. 309-E  
Richmond, VA 23220

Franklin D. Tuck  
21 Mayflower Road  
Darien, CT 06820

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA--Verbal Boundary Description

approx. 250 feet; thence south approx. 200 feet to a point on the north side of the unimproved road, thence following said side of said road west approx. 300 feet to the point of origin.

Boundary Justification: The boundaries have been drawn to include approximately 1 3/4 acres, encompassing the three contributing structures.

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BUCKSHOAL FARM, HALIFAX COUNTY, VA  
Continuation sheet 3

Item number 8

Page 2

Moreover, his political career in the Virginia General Assembly from 1924 to 1942 had statewide political interest and importance. No other property better represents the agrarian and Southside Virginia values of Tuck's active professional career.

1. Family records.
2. ibid.
3. "How Governors Are Made," Richmond Times-Dispatch, 19 March 1976.
4. ibid.
5. ibid.
6. ibid.
7. Remarks by Fifth District Representative W. C. Daniel in the House of Representatives on the passing of Governor Tuck, printed in the Congressional Record, June 14, 1983.
8. Crawley, William Bryan, Jr., Bill Tuck; A Political Life (Charlottesville, VA: University Press, 1978), p. 200.
9. ibid.

BUCKSHOAL FARM  
Location Map

HALIFAX COUNTY, VA  
Not to scale

Map 1 of 2  
1987



Main House



shed

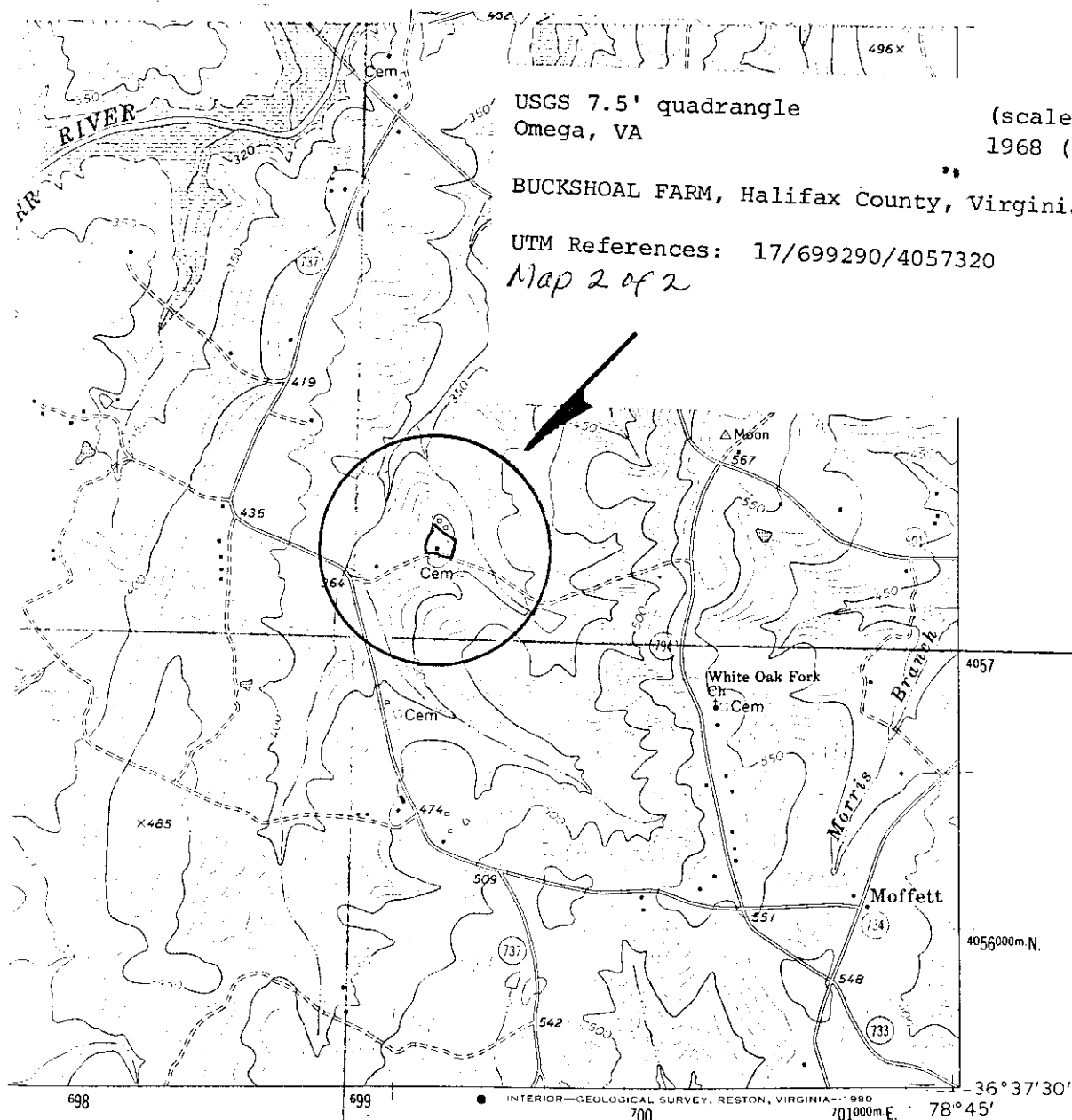


well-house



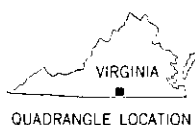
County Route 737





#### ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface ——— Light-duty road, hard or improved surface ———  
Secondary highway, hard surface ——— Unimproved road ———  
Interstate Route U. S. Route State Route



#### OMEGA, VA.

NE/4 SOUTH BOSTON 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3637.5—W7845/7.5

1968  
PHOTOREVISED 1980  
DMA 5257 III NE—SERIES V834

(NELSON)  
5257 III SW